

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 OMB-01 IO-11 AF-06 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5611

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS IR

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 1751

1. DURING FEBRUARY 19 CALL ON OTHER MATTERS, ROKG FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG-CHIN PROVIDED THE AMBASSADOR BRIEF REVIEW HIS FEBRUARY 11-15 VISIT TO TEHRAN. ESSENTIALLY, PARK CONFIRMED REFTEL REPORT THAT MEETINGS WENT WELL.

2. NOTING THAT HE HAD MET WITH SHAH FOR MORE THAN 30 MINUTES, AS WELL AS IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE, PARK CONCLUDED FROM THESE MEETINGS THAT BASIC POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF ROK/IRANIAN RELATIONS WAS QUITE FAVORABLE. SHAH, HE SAID, HAD PRAISED PRESIDENT PARK'S LEADERSHIP HIGHLY, AS WELL AS KOREAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT ROK/IRANIAN RELATIONSHIP. FONMIN PARK SAID THAT WHEN HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR IRANIAN COOPERATION, SHAH REMARKED THAT THIS WAS "NATURAL" BECAUSE TWO COUNTRIES HELD SAME POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, AND IRAN NEEDED ROK MANPOWER, WHEREAS SOUTH KOREA NEEDED IRANIAN CAPITAL.

3. ACCORDING PARK, IRAN FONMIN CLAIMED THAT KIM IL SUNG VISIT
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TO IRAN PLANNED FOR LAST FALL WAS IN FACT ONLY "RUMOR", SINCE

NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR VISIT HAD EVER COME FROM DPRK. (AMBASSADOR INTERJECTED HERE THAT WE HAD EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.) PARK TOLD HIS IRANIAN COUNTERPART THAT ROK WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN INROADS IN IRAN AND URGED THAT IRAN NOT OPEN DOOR TO NORTH KOREA. PARK SAID HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN TO FONMIN AS WELL AS TO IRANIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF IRANIAN CASH CREDITS TO PYONGYANG.

4. PARK WAS PLEASED ABOUT EXTENSIVE NEWS COVERAGE HE CLAIMED WAS GIVEN TO BOTH HIS VISIT AND MEETING OF MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN ROK CHIEFS OF MISSION. HE SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT IRANIANS WERE THEMSELVES PLEASED THAT KOREANS HAD HELD THEIR CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN TEHRAN.
SNEIDER

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